

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06878 061329Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-01 ONY-00 /009 W
-----069964 061339Z /47 R
R 060940Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2656
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6878

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, PAK, US
SUBJ: POSSIBLE INDICTMENT OF ASHIQ ALI BHUTTO AND OTHERS

REF: STATE 154930

1. EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN AN OLD UNDATED AND UNSOURCED NOTATION TO THE EFFECT THAT ASHIQ BHUTTO IS A BROTHER OF MUMTAZ ALI BHUTTO AND HENCE ALSO A COUSIN OF ZULFIQAR ALI BHUTTO, AND THAT HE WAS ONCE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. EMBASSY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE OTHER INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED PARA 1 REFTEL.

2. IRS REPRESENTATIVE DEARSMAN FROM TEHRAN VISITED ISLAMABAD IN APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER OF 1976, AND WHILE HERE SHE ASKED FOR INFO ON SEVERAL OF INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN REFTEL (INCLUDING ASHIQ ALI BHUTTO, LESLIE SEQUEIRA AND "ASIF MAHMOOD", POSSIBLY THE SAME PERSON DESCRIBED IN REFTEL AS ASIF MOHAMMED). FOR SOME REASON, ASHIQ BHUTTO'S APPARENT RELATIONSHIP TO MUMTAZ BHUTTO DID NOT COME TO LIGHT AT THAT TIME. DEARSMAN'S INQUIRY APPEARED TO BE CONNECTED WITH IRS INVESTIGATIONS OF THE POSSI-
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BILITY OF PAYOFFS BY THE AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS. AS FAR AS WE COULD TELL, NONE OF THE OTHER INDIVIDUALS MS. DEARSMAN WAS INQUIRING ABOUT WAS POLITICALLY CONTROVER-
SIAL.

3. OBVIOUSLY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO DAYS HAVE CHANGED THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY ACT US CUSTOMS MIGHT

WISH TO TAKE AGAINST ASHIK ALI BHUTTO. ON THE ONE HAND, ASHIQ BHUTTO'S COUSIN IS NO LONGER PRIME MINISTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, STATEMENTS THUS FAR BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT SUGGEST THAT Z.A. BHUTTO MAY WELL BE RELEASED FROM DETENTION TO FIGHT AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN OCTOBER, AND IF THAT HAPPENS THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT ANTI-AMERICANISM TO BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGN. Z.A. BHUTTO WOULD USE ANY "EVIDENCE" HE COULD FIND OF US HOSTILITY TO HIMSELF OR TO PAKISTAN AS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

4. THE DECISION TO SEEK AN INDICTMENT OR NOT, OF COURSE, IS FOR CUSTOMS AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE, BASED ON THE EVIDENCE THEY HAVE AND OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: SWEL, PK, US, JUS, TRSY, (BHUTTO, ASHIK ALI)
To: STATE
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